



103 Columbia Avenue • P.O. Box 183 • Chapin, SC 29036

May 14, 2009

The Honorable Joe Wilson
212 Cannon HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Columbia Avenue (S-48) Widening in Chapin, SC

Dear Congressman Wilson:

As you know, the Town of Chapin has been striving for years to secure funding for the project to widen Columbia Avenue (also known as S-48) in Chapin. In 2006, a comprehensive engineering study known as the **Columbia Avenue (S-48) Corridor Study** was undertaken; extensive public input was secured by way of public meetings on November 15, 2005, February 23, 2006, and June 15, 2006; and the engineers prepared a detailed estimate of its cost which was projected at approximately \$15.85 million.

The widening of Columbia Avenue is an extremely important project for the Chapin Community, and we have worked extremely hard to see it to fruition. This road is utilized as the primary transportation artery in and out of Chapin from I-26, it greatly impacts the safety of Chapin High School, it impacts commerce in Chapin, and its accessibility by emergency vehicles is critical for the life safety of our citizens and our visitors. The project will feature multi-modal transportation elements with vehicular roadways, bike paths, pedestrian sidewalks, and access to the Central Midlands Regional Transportation Authority's Smartride Stop at I-26.

The **Columbia Avenue (S-48) Corridor Study** indicates that all of the intersections along this segment of the road already have, or are expected to have, failing Levels of Service. The road is already gridlocked during peak traffic hours. We fear that the safety of the motoring public in the vicinity of Chapin High School during arrival and dismissal times is very much in peril.

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The Town of Chapin wholeheartedly endorses the Columbia Avenue (S-48) Widening Project, and we very much appreciate Congressman Wilson's willingness to pursue federal assistance for the project. We recognize that the project funding will include the following:

Total Project Cost: \$15,843,778

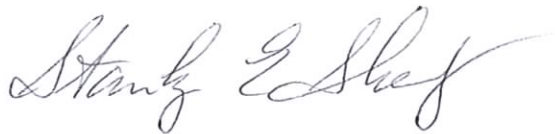
Matches from Right of Way, School District 5, and other sources: \$3,168,756

Total Federal Authorization Request: \$9,506,266

Please also know that we would be pleased to sponsor and conduct additional public hearings and/or meetings on this project as may be required. Let us know if you have any questions. Thank you so much for your continuing support.

Yours sincerely,

Town of Chapin

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Stanley E. Shealy". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the printed name of the Mayor.

Stanley E. Shealy, Mayor